Arts Reflection

1. How much can we learn about the past for the history of Art?

History and art are both different areas of knowing, and usually are not seen as linked. But art can help us learn about history in different ways than is normally acknowledged as the normal, and can help support the knowledge we already know. History is usually taught by reading texts of past events that occur or a summary of events that have occurred, these methods will help with understanding through reason but they don’t cover any other ways of knowing. When one sees a piece of art it can show the view of the artist at that point in history, it shows the emotion at the time, it can show the bias towards someone/thing and it also shows the opinion of the current situation. Therefore when learning history with art you can bring in more ways of knowing as art will entail sense perception, visualizing the situation and emotion because it more easily shows strong emotions. For example when studying world war two, one can easily read a text stating the number of deaths that took place, although using reason this is correct it is still hard to perceive but if shown a photo of all the graves and the mourning relatives they are able to visually see the deaths ensuring their knowledge of this fact.

1. To what extent do the arts help us to see the world with new eyes?

Art helps us see the world in many different ways. One can have his own view on a certain aspect of the world but this doesn’t mean that others have to have these same opinions. But when you are viewing a piece of art, it is in the perspective of someone else, that is not your perspective, or your eyes, therefore it is through new eyes that you perceive the world. Also art helps show different emotion and viewpoints of certain people, for example if viewing a piece of art from a Vietnamese person on the Vietnam war it would show millions of innocent people being killed, whereas from an Americans point of view it would most probably show America as hero figure in trying to contain the spread of communism. If one were to look at one of the paintings you would feel the other country is the one at fault. Also art helps change our mood, if one is listening to upbeat music, which is considered positive, they are likely to change there viewpoints on events that will take place because they are feeling positive from the art.

Bibliography:

http://studysavers.wordpress.com/2010/10/26/the-arts/